

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) An impact resistant, double-skinned structure, comprising:

a double-skinned wall structure comprised of an outer skin and an inner skin;

channels attached to an inner surface of the outer skin, the channels having two side walls and a base joining the two side walls together, the two side walls making an angle of 45 degrees with the outer skin; and

stringers extending perpendicularly from the bases to an inner surface of the inner skin, the stringers being parallel plates running a longitudinal length of the bases of the channels,

the stringers configured to provide a collapse path of the two side walls, from a force applied to the outside side of the outer skin, toward the inner skin.

8. (previously presented) The impact resistant, double-skinned structure of claim 7, wherein the channels have a semi-cylindrical cross-section.

9. (previously presented) The impact resistant, double-skinned structure of claim 7, wherein the channels are made of steel 37.

10. (currently amended) The impact resistant, double-skinned structure of claim 7, further comprising:

further channels attached to the inner surface of the inner skin, the channels having two side walls and a base joining the two side walls together, the two side walls making an angle of 45 degrees with the ~~outer~~ inner skin;

further stringers extending perpendicularly from the bases of the further channels to the inner surface of the ~~inner~~ outer skin; and

strips joining adjacent further stringers.

11. (currently amended) The impact resistant, double-skinned structure of claim 10, wherein,

the outer skin is an outer hull of a ship and the inner skin is an inner hull of a ship, and

the strips run parallel between the inner and the outer hull ~~of a ship~~.

12-17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) The impact resistant, double-skinned structure of claim 7, wherein,

the inner skin and the outer skin form an inner hull and an outer hull structure ~~is~~ of a ship's hull, and

the parallel plates have a width in a direction from the base to the inner surface of the inner wall and a length along the longitudinal length of the bases, the length of the parallel plates being greater than the width of the parallel plates.

19. (currently amended) An impact resistant, double-skinned structure, comprising:

a double-skinned wall structure comprised of an outer skin and an inner skin;

channels attached to an inner surface of the outer skin, the channels having two side walls and a base joining the two side walls together; and

stringers extending perpendicularly only from the bases to an inner surface of the inner skin, wherein,

the side walls are free of any elements extending to the inner surface of the outer wall.

20. (previously presented) The impact resistant, double-skinned structure of claim 19, wherein the two side walls making an angle of 45 degrees with the outer skin.

21. (previously presented) The impact resistant, double-skinned structure of claim 19, wherein the channels have a semi-cylindrical cross-section.

22. (currently amended) The impact resistant, double-skinned structure of claim 19, wherein,

the channels are made of steel 37,

adjacent stringers are jointed, at stringer edges, by strips spaced apart along the length of each base, and

the stringers consist essential of parallel plates having a width in a direction from the base to the inner surface of the inner wall and a length along the longitudinal length of the bases, the length of the parallel plates being greater than the width of the parallel plates.

23. (currently amended) The impact resistant, double-skinned structure of claim 19, further comprising:

further channels attached to the inner surface of the inner skin, the channels having two side walls and a base joining the two side walls together, the two side walls making an angle of 45 degrees with the ~~outer~~ inner skin;

further stringers extending perpendicularly from the bases of the further channels to the inner surface of the ~~inner~~ outer skin; and

strips joining adjacent further stringers, the strips being spaced apart along the length of the bases.

24. (currently amended) The impact resistant, double-skinned structure of claim 23, wherein,

the outer skin is an outer hull of a ship and the inner skin is an inner hull of a ship, and

the strips run parallel between the inner and the outer hull ~~of a ship~~.

25. (currently amended) The impact resistant, double-skinned structure of claim 19, wherein,

the inner skin and the outer skin form an inner hull and an outer hull structure ~~is~~ of a ship's hull, and

the parallel plates have a width in a direction from the base to the inner surface of the inner wall and a length along the longitudinal length of the bases, the length of the parallel plates being greater than the width of the parallel plates.

26. (previously presented) An impact resistant, double-skinned structure of claim 7, further comprising strips joining adjacent stringers.

27. (previously presented) An impact resistant, double-skinned structure of claim 19, further comprising strips joining adjacent stringers.

28. (currently amended) An impact resistant, double-skinned structure, comprising:

a double-skinned wall structure comprised of an outer skin and an inner skin;

channels attached to an inner surface of the outer skin, the channels having two side walls and a base joining the two side walls together, the two side walls making a non-zero angle with the outer skin; and

stringers parallel to each other and extending perpendicularly from the bases to an inner surface of the inner skin, the stringers being contact free of any side walls, each stringer having an adjacent-most stringer that extends from an adjacent-most base.

29. (previously presented) The impact resistant, double-skinned structure of claim 28, wherein the two side walls making an angle of 45 degrees with the outer skin.

30. (previously presented) The impact resistant, double-skinned structure of claim 28, wherein the channels have a semi-cylindrical cross-section.

31. (currently amended) The impact resistant, double-skinned structure of claim [[19]] 28, further comprising:

strips joining adjacent stringers;

further channels attached to the inner surface of the inner skin, the channels having two side walls and a base joining the two side walls together, the two side walls making an angle of 45 degrees with the ~~outer~~ inner skin;

~~further stringers extending perpendicularly from the
bases of the further channels to the inner surface of outer inner
skin; and~~

further strips joining adjacent further stringers.

32. (currently amended) The impact resistant, double-
skinned structure of claim 23, wherein,

the inner skin and the outer skin form an inner hull
and an outer hull structure ~~is~~ of a ship's hull, and

the parallel plates have a width in a direction from
the base to the inner surface of the inner wall and a length
along the longitudinal length of the bases, the length of the
parallel plates being greater than the width of the parallel
plates.